

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to state my opposition to SB 1105. The proposed legislation is detrimental to children with autism. I have worked with children with autism for the last ten years and can attest to the progress that children make when they receive quality ABA services that are supervised by a Board Certified Behavior Analyst who has several years experience with children on the spectrum.

The current legislation would allow for professionals who are not qualified to provide these services to do so. There are already not enough SLP's, special education teachers and psychologists to meet CT's current educational needs. Adding additional responsibilities to these professions will not meaningfully increase the number of providers. These professionals often have very little training with students with autism. The legislation would make it so that even when a qualified Board Certified Behavior Analyst or another professional who is either certified or licensed in the state of Connecticut who has ABA within their scope of practice is involved, they cannot design or implement programming without the approval and direct involvement of a third party who is an administrator rather than someone trained to provide these services or even knowledgeable about autism. Without proper service delivery students with autism not only will not learn but can regress, causing the cost of later treatment and lifelong care to increase. Supervision and direction by a designated administrator will add to the cost of providing services while decreasing the ability of qualified personnel to do their jobs.

Please keep the best interest of children with autism in mind when considering this legislation.

Sincerely,

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